

Graduate Deans' Group
Thursday, October 25, 2007, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.
4th Floor Conference Room, Andy Holt Tower

Attending:

Mary Albrecht (Chair), Bruce Bomar, William Dunne, Jerry Faria, Thomas George, George Hoemann, Jan Lee, Buddy Moore, Matthew Murray, Masood Parang, Linda Phillips, Michael Ickowitz, Mohanan M. K., Kay Reed.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Mary Albrecht, Chair. Albrecht introduced Brad Fenwick, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement.

1. Dr. Brad Fenwick discussed the following points:

- Research scholarship and graduate programs are tightly connected. The Research Office and Graduate School will share resources in a team manner.
- The university's reputation is tightly tied to graduate students. Our graduate students should be doing top quality research in order to achieve recognition and the university to have a competitive advantage.
- Majority of the University's funding comes from federal grants and personal donors.
- He requested input from the college deans and departments on setting his agenda, particularly, what hasn't been done and what they would like to see his office do. He discussed the need for willingness to change and build on the core strength of the university. A truly comprehensive university is trans-disciplinary in its approach.
- There is potential to increase the interaction with Oak Ridge, and he sees it as a powerful opportunity. Laboratories close to universities generally fund graduate students with hopes that they later can be hired as employees.
- The university has a great opportunity to attract better graduate students and faculty who wish to build their careers, as there is a nationwide problem of many universities and colleges budgets being over committed.
- He would like to attend the meetings on a regular basis.

Some questions and discussion followed Fenwick's talk, such as lower tuition as graduate students progress in their studies, Research Incentive Funds, F & A costs, and space issues.

2. Proposed Change in Graduate Grading Scale (+/-)

Dr. Albrecht led a discussion regarding the addition of the minus in the graduate grading scale. The Undergraduate Council approved the proposal for use in undergraduate grading. The Graduate Council requested feedback from the

Graduate Deans' Group, as well as from the colleges and departments before they vote on the proposal. She pointed out that Monique Anderson, Associate Dean in the Registrar's Office, stated that undergraduate and graduate grades could be handled independently. The group's only concerns were that the grade point average would drop, and the departments should review their requirements in the Graduate Catalog sections dealing with GPA averages and graduate handbooks for any potential revisions due to the addition of the minus grades. Generally, the group had no problem with the changed proposed.

3. Development of the Graduate Council Bylaws

Matt Murray, Chair of the Graduate Council, shared the following information:

- Graduate Council was formed in 1949 and has been serving without bylaws.
- An Ad-hoc committee has been formed to develop the bylaws.
- Appointment and/or election of Graduate Council members vary from college to college. The Graduate Council should be diverse in its membership, including gender diversity. The director of graduate studies would be the most likely candidate for membership on the council. Administrative appointments will most likely be frowned upon by the Faculty Senate.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.